

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 VO-05

FBIE-00 INSE-00 FDRE-00 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4466

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR SHUM, WZ

SUBJECT: PAC EXPULSION FROM SWAZILAND

REF: MBABANE 1204

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SITUATION CONCERNING PAC DETAINEES WITH UNHCR REP SABITI. GOS STILL HAS NOT REPEAT NOT PROVIDED SABITI WITH A LIST OF PEOPLE UNDER DETENTION; HE ATTRIBUTES THIS TO FACT THAT GOS IS STILL ARRESTING MORE PEOPLE. COMMENT. GOS HAS BEEN LESS THAN HELPFUL TO SABITI IN PROVIDING INFORMATION OR ACCESS TO DETAINEES. SABITI STATED THAT ON TWO OCCASIONS GOS OFFICIALS EITHER LIED OR MISLED HIM ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PAC ROUNDUP. AS AN EXAMPLE, SABITI ASKED EZRAIM KHUMALO, (WHO IS IN DEPUTY PRIMIN OFFICE AND HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS) WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT THE
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ARREST OF TWO MORE REFUGEE SOWETO STUDENTS AT THEIR SCHOOL. KHUMALO STATED HE KNEW NOTHING. LATER THE HEADMASTER STATED THAT THE DETENTION ORDER FOR THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN CARRIED BY EZRAIM KHUMALO. END COMMENT.

2. SABITI STATED THAT FROM WHAT HE COULD GATHER, SOME OF THE PEOPLE BEING ARRESTED WERE NOT PAC MEMBERS BUT ONLY WERE KNOWN

PAC SYMPATHIZERS. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THIS POINT WITH DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE MSIBI. HE STATED THAT THIS ROUNDUP WAS TO BE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS THAT THEY WERE NOT WELCOME HERE (SWAZILAND) AND SHOULD USE A DIFFERENT ESCAPE ROUTE, SUCH AS BOTSWANA.

3. SABITI STATED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE OF DETAINEES BEING MOVED FROM SWAZILAND FOR AT LEAST 2-3 WEEKS. FIRST, SINCE ALL PREVIOUS PAC SPONSORED REFUGEE AIRLIFTS FROM SWAZILAND HAD BEEN FUNDED BY UNHCR, HE FELT THAT PAC WOULD AGAIN APPROACH UNHCR FOR FUNDS. IT WILL TAKE TIME TO ARRANGE. SECOND, UNTIL GOS PROVIDES HIM FULL LIST OF PERSONS TO BE EXPELLED, HE CAN NOT REQUEST TRANSIT RIGHTS THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE. THE RESPONSE FROM GPRM WOULD TAKE TIME. THIRD, SABITI STATED HE WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA PERMISSION FOR DETAINEES TO REMAIN IN TANZANIA, AND THIS WOULD ALSO TAKE TIME TO ARRANGE.

4. GOS STILL HAS NOT PROVIDED SABITI WITH CLEAR GUIDANCE ON HOW SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF DETAINEES WILL BE HANDLED. SABITI NOW THINKS THAT EARLIER GOS ASSURANCE THAT DEPENDENTS OF DETAINEES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN ONLY APPLIES TO SWAZI WOMEN AND CHILDREN. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO PRESENT SWAZI CITIZENSHIP LAW, ONLY PERSONS WHOSE FATHERS WERE BORN IN SWAZILAND CAN BE SWAZILAND CITIZENS. SINCE VIRTUALLY ALL PAC DETAINEES ARE SOUTH AFRICAN, THEIR CHILDREN WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR SWAZILAND CITIZENSHIP. END COMMENT. GOS HAS TOLD SABITI THAT IT IS WILLING TO
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ISSUE UN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR ALL DETAINEES WHO NEED THEM.

5. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE ANY SWAZILAND CITIZENS IN DETENTION IS STILL UNANSWERED. SABITI AND EMBOFF BOTH FEEL IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT SOME SWAZIS ARE IN DETENTION.

6. FOR MCCORMICK: EMBOFF HAD TWO DISCUSSIONS WITH BEDELL; TOPICS INCLUDED INTERNATIONAL LAW, GOS LAWS, U.S.G. ABILITY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN SWAZILAND, OPTIONS FOR U.S. RESPONSE IN WORLD FORA, AND US IMMIGRATION POLICY ON PAROLE AND REFUGEE STATUS. BEDELL IS NOW AWARE THAT THERE IS LITTLE EMBASSY CAN DO DIRECTLY FOR DETAINEES. HE FEELS AT MINIMUM, USG SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN PUBLICIZING THIS "PRO-SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION" BY GOS AT U.N. AND OAU.
PERLOW

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